

May 4, 2003

09/04

MWTC holds change of command

Command of the Mine Warfare Training Center will pass from Capt. Richard Rush to Cmdr. Ricks Polk on Friday, May 7, at 10 a.m., in ceremony at Naval Station Ingleside.

Capt. Rush has made an indelible mark on the mine warfare community, South Texas, and the Fleet. He first touched the mine warfare community in 1989, taking command of the USS Implicit (MSO 455), a mine sweeping ocean ship homeported in Tacoma, Wash., winning two Battle Efficiency awards, for sustained superior performance in an operational environment, and the Golden Anchor award, for retention, during his tour. He returned to mine warfare in May 2000, assuming command of Mine Countermeasures Squadron Two. With tenacity and heart for this warfare area, Capt. Rush assumed command of Mine Warfare Training Center (MWTC) and Afloat Training Group Ingleside (ATGI) in October 2002.

From mine warfare homeland defense war gaming and organic mine countermeasures, his concept of operations efforts led to mainstreaming mine warfare in surface, air, submarine, diving and intelligence forces. Capt. Rush has excelled as an ambassador and visionary leader of the mine force. His efforts supported Operation Iraqi Freedom and initial deployment of the High Speed Vessel, Swift.

Capt. Rush's next assignment is as a special assistant to the Chief of Naval Operations for Joint Chief of Staff matters.